

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /102 W
----- 027058

R 242100Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6328

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0757

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, ECEM, VE, EC, NU

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON PETROLEUM BY VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO
NICARAGUA

1. DURING THE INTERMISSION AT A CULTURAL PERFORMANCE SPONSORED BY
THE EMBASSY ON FRIDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 21, THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR
TO NICARAGUA, REYNALDO LEANDRO RODRIGUEZ, ENGAGED ME IN CONVERSA-
TION AND DURING THIS CONVERSATION HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) AMBASSADOR RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT THAT DAY HE HAD
RECEIVED A CABLE FROM CARACAS ADVISING THAT VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WOULD BE ATTENDING THE OPEC MEETING IN ALGERIA OF
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THE HEADS OF STATES OF OPEC COUNTRIES, AND THEN PROCEEDING

DIRECTLY FROM ALGERIA TO MEXICO CITY FOR A VISIT WITH MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE TENTATIVELY PLANNED VISIT FOR PEREZ TO PARIS HAD BEEN POSTPONED "UNTIL NEXT YEAR".

(B) AMBASSADOR RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT NO DEFINITE PLANS HAD AS YET BEEN MADE BY PRESIDENT PEREZ REGARDING A VISIT TO CENTRAL AMERICA. HE FURTHER SAID THAT PEREZ HAD "SPECIAL AND FIRM" INVITATIONS FROM COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ODUBER AND PANAMANIAN GENERAL TORRIJOS, BUT THAT NO DECISION HAD AS YET BEEN MADE.

(C) THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION THAT ECUADOR WAS HAVING "A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFUCULTY" IN SELLING ITS OIL. HE SAID THIS APPEARED TO BE A COMBINATION OF THE HIGH PRICES AND SHIPPING COSTS. HE FURTHER SAID THAT THIS WAS OF CONCERN TO VENEZUELA SINCE IT TENDED TO WEAKEN THE POSITION OF OPEC WHEN A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION COULD NOT MARKET ITS PETROLEUM. INTER-ALIA, HE STATED THAT VENEZUELA WAS REDUCING THE PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM BY 11 PERCENT, KUWAIT BY 20 PERCENT, AND IRAN BY 20 PERCENT. AMBASSADOR RODRIGUEZ SAID THAT VENEZUELA WAS ASSISTING ECUADOR IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX WHICH COULD UTILIZE THE PETROLEUM IT WAS NOT MARKETING FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF CHEMICALS IN THE USE OF DRUGS AND OTHER PREPARATIONS.

2. COMMENT: I GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM THE CONVERSATION THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS REFLECTING SOME CONCERN ON THE PART OF VENEZUELA THAT THERE WOULD BE CONTINUING DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING THE HIGH PRICE OF PETROLEUM GIVEN THE SURPLUS OF PETROLEUM WHICH NOW EXISTS, AND THAT ECUADOR WAS CONSIDERED A "PARTICULARLY SOFT SPOT" IN THE OPEC LINEUP.

SHELTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, AMBASSADORS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAGU00757
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750065-0352
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750219/aaaaaqrz.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS ON PETROLEUM BY VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA
TAGS: ENRG, ECEM, VE, EC, NU, (LEANDRO RODRIGUEZ, REYNALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006